



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

"Better Service for a Better Environment"

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REPLY TO:

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January 12, 2000

FROM: George L. Krisztian, Laboratory Certification Officer

SUBJECT: Recent Developments in the Lab Certification Program

It has been six months since the last lab certification program update, and EPA is keeping things interesting. The primary issues at this time are PT samples and the December 1, 1999, Federal Register.

PROFICIENCY TEST SCHEDULING:

It is getting to be that time of year again. In order to meet the deadline for the April PT, you will need to place your order during the first half of February. All laboratories, (including chemistry and microbiology labs) are required to run the April PT.

The last study that was provided by the EPA was in the fall of 1998 and was designated as WS 041. Since this process has been privatized, providers have developed their own numbering system. This has led to some confusion since one provider's **WS XYZ** might be given at the same time as another provider's **WS ABC**. I am standardizing the nomenclature so that proficiencies can be called the same thing regardless of what the vendor calls them. The easiest way to accomplish this is to pick up where the EPA left off.

The PT study that was given in the spring of 1999 has been designated as WS 042. The PT study that was given in the fall of 1999 has been designated as WS 043. The study that is due during April 2000 is designated as WS 044. This is important from a record-keeping standpoint. This office is currently developing a database program that will automatically generate reports of labs that need to take some form of corrective action, but the program needs to give a single designation to all of the PT samples from a given test period.

Laboratory Directors
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Currently, PT providers are likely to continue to use their own numbering systems. I will be working with them to find out how they might be able to incorporate the standardized numbering system.

PT PROVIDERS:

The EPA has finally come out with the official list of approved proficiency test providers. Starting with WS 044 (the April 2000 study) laboratories must use an approved PT provider. Please note that you will need to verify that your provider is approved for all of the parameters for which you are maintaining certification. This is especially critical for laboratories that are certified for a large number of parameters since many of the vendors have gaps in their list of approved parameters.

Following is the list of EPA's PT providers:

CO

[Environmental Resource Associates \(ERA\)](#), Arvada, CO [200386- 0]

Phone: (303) 431-8454

CT

[Absolute Standards, Inc.](#), Hamden, CT [200390- 0]

Phone: (203) 281-2917

[AccuStandard, Inc.](#), New Haven, CT [200389- 0]

Phone: (203) 786-5290 X102

LA

[Chrisope Technologies, A Division of Remel](#), Lake Charles, LA [200388- 0]

Phone: (318) 479-1000 X236

NJ

[Protocol Analytical Supplies, Inc.](#), Middlesex, NJ [200395- 0]

Phone: (732) 627-0500

[Spex Certiprep Inc.](#), Metuchen, NJ [200392- 0]

Phone: (732) 549-7144 X418

NY

[NYS DOH Environmental Laboratory Approval Program](#), Albany, NY [200387- 0]

Phone: (518) 485-5570

OH

[Analytical Products Group, Inc.](#), Belpre, OH [200384- 0]

Phone: (740) 423-4200

RI

[Ultra Scientific, Inc.](#), North Kingston, RI [200379- 0]

Phone: (401) 294-9400

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More information about these vendors can be obtained at the following website:

<http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/214/214.htm>

DECEMBER 1, 1999, FEDERAL REGISTER:

There have been several changes that have taken place with the promulgation of the December 1, 1999, Federal Register. Among these are:

- ?? Requirement for laboratories to begin using the 19th Edition of Standard Methods.
- ?? Requirement for laboratories to use the methods as applicable in Methods for the Determination of Organic Compounds in Drinking Water, Supplement III. This requirement applies to all of the methods in this supplement with the exception of EPA Method 515.1. Revision 4.0 will continue to be the promulgated methodology.
- ?? Replacement of EPA Method 549.1 for the determination of Diquat with EPA Method 549.2.
- ?? Allowance of laboratories to seek certification for two additional total coliform methodologies (the E*Colite test and the m-ColiBlue 24 test). Both of these methodologies may only be used for presence/absence and may not be used for enumeration.
- ?? Reduction of the minimum incubation time for reading the Colisure Test from 28 hours to 24 hours in drinking water under the Total Coliform Rule.
- ?? Allowance of laboratories to acidify samples for metals analyses using a 1:1 dilute solution rather than using concentrated acid. All other requirements in the preservation process still apply.

E-MAIL:

If you have an e-mail address, please send it to us. Once we have compiled a list, we will use it to send out notices. We will continue to use standard mail, but those with an e-mail address will receive this information sooner. My e-mail address is krisztig@state.mi.us.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact me at 517-335-8812.